out in the news-item appeared in the Hindustan Times of 26th July, 1995 under the caption "Storing grain on airstrip the FCI way";

(b) if so, the extent to which the news report is correct and what action Government propose to take to save the foodgrains from getting damaged; and

(c) what are the other points that have been brought out in the news item and what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) It is not correct that foodgrains worth Rs. 100 crore has been rendered useless for human consumption during the last two years in Punjab as per news item of the "The Hindustan Times" dated 26.7.95. The total quantities declared as damaged due to various reasons in Punjab for the last two years are as under:—

Year	Quantity (MTs)	Values (Rs.)
1993-94	25,663.333	9,66,79,215.72*
1992-93	1,899.239	60,84,347.41

(*The damaged during this year was due to unprecedented floods)

The damaged foodgrains are categorised on the basis of sound grains into various categories such as cattle feed, Poultry feed, Industrial/manure use etc. and disposed off accordingly. It is not correct to say that all damaged foodgrains available with FCI are not fit for fodder use. Due to paucity of covered godowns, stocks are kept in open under CAP (Cover & Plinth) as purely temporary measure. The stocks under CAP are well protected with polythene covers and other accessories to avoid any damage due to rains. The FCI has been successful in storing foodgrains under CAP without any appreciable damage to foodgrains except due to natural calamities.

(c) (i) It is an internationally accepted practice to store foodgrains under CAP protected with polythene covers, cover tops and nets on raised plinths or on wooden crates. With expertise in the field, stocks in open can be preserved for a short period without any deterioration except for natural calamities.

(ii) The stocks of paddy are purchased as per the uniform specifications of the Government of India. The same are issued to the rice millers for custom milling as per the terms of contract mutually agreed upon. All out efforts are made to liquidate huge quantity of paddy available in Punjab by custom milling/diposal through open tender/movement to other States for milling.

(iii) Due to availability of foodgrains in plenty in the open markets, the offtake through PDS has considerably comedown resulting in huge accumulation of foodgrains with FCI. Efforts are made to expedite movement to other needy States and disposal through open tender wherever possible.

Centrally Sponsored Cheap Rice Scheme

1379. SHRI SARDA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the states where centrally sponsored cheap rice scheme is being implemented;

(b) whether it has been introduced in every State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to oversee the proper distribution of rice under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Central Government has not sponsored cheap rice scheme in any State/UT. However, under the Public Distribution System (PDS) the Central Government makes bulk allocation of foodgrains to all States/UTs at subsidised Central Issue Prices (CIP) which are uniform for all States/UTs. The foodgrains meant for distribution in the Blocks identified for im-

plementation of the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) are issued at specially subsidised Central Issue Prices which are Rs. 50/- per quintal less than the CIP for normal PDS areas. State Governments/Union Territories are responsible for all operational aspects of implementation of the Public Distribution System.

गुजरात में गरीबी रेखा से नीचे जीवनयापन कर रहे अनुसूचित जातियों/अनूसूचित जनजातियों के परिवार

1380. **श्री राजूभाई ए० परमार: क्या योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) 30 जून, 1995 की स्थिति के अनुसार गुजरात में और विशेषतया सौराष्ट्र कच्छ क्षेत्र में गरीबी रेखा से नीचे जीवनयापन कर रहे अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों/अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों के कितने परिवार हैं;

(ख) क्या गत वर्ष की तुलना में उन परिवारों की संख्या में वृद्धि/कम हुई है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) इन परिवारों को गरीबी रेखा से ऊपर लाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा किए गए उपायों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री गिरिधर गमंग): (क) से (ग) योजना आयोग राष्ट्रीय प्रतिदर्श सर्वेक्षण संगठन (एन०एस०एस०) द्वारा आयोजित घरेलू खपत व्यय सम्बन्धी पंचवार्षिक सर्वेक्षण के आधार पर गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रह रहे व्यक्तियों की संख्या का राज्यवार अनुमान लगाता है। अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों के गरीबी सम्बन्धी अनुमान उपलब्ध नहीं है। अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति के लिए राज्य-वार गरीबी सम्बन्धी अनुमान वर्ष 1977-78 और 1983-84 के लिए उपलब्ध हैं। इस प्रकार 30 जून, 1995 की स्थिति के अनुसार अनुसूचित जाति, अनुसूचित जनजाति और अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों के लिए गरीबी सम्बन्धी अनुमान उपलब्ध नहीं है।

(घ) गरीब परिवारों की जीवन की गुणवत्ता में सुधार लाने के लिए अनेक कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वित किए जा रहे हैं। इनमें से एकीकृत ग्रामीण विकास कार्यक्रम (आई०आर०डी०पी०), स्व-रोजगार के लिए ग्रामीण युवाओं का प्रशिक्षण (ट्राइसेम), ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में महिला तथा बाल विकास (डी०डब्ल्यू०सी०आर०ए०), जवाहर रोजगार योजना (जे०आर०वाई०), रोजगार आश्वासन स्कीम (ई०ए०एस०), सूखा प्रवण क्षेत्र कार्यक्रम (डी०पी०ए०पी०) तथा मरुस्थल विकास कार्यक्रम को जारी रखा जा रहा है।

तीन नई केन्द्र प्रायोजित स्कीमें, एकीकृत बाल विकास प्रणाली का सार्वभौमीकरण (आई०सी०डी०एस०), सामुदायिक पोषण केन्द्र तथा इन्दिरा महिला योजना को शीघ्र ही शुरू किया जाना है।

50,000 से 100,000 तक के बीच की आबादी वाले कस्बों में प्रधानमंत्री का एकीकृत शहरी गरीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम (पी०एम्०आई०यू०पी०ई०पी०) नामक गरीबी उन्मूलन की एक नई स्कीम विचाराधीन है।

Royalty on Different Grades of Coal

1381. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the prevalent rate of royalty on various grades of coal;

(b) when the rate was fixed;

(c) whether any proposal from the State Government of Orissa has been received by the Central Government regarding grades and rate of coal; and

(d) what decision has been taken by Government on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The rates of royalty on coal were last revised w.e.f. 11.10.1994 except for Meghalaya. Revision in respect of Meghalaya was notified on 13.1.1995. The existing rates of royalty for various grades of coal are detailed in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) In their representation to the Study Group on Royalty set-up by Ministry of Coal on 20.1.1994, the Government of Orissa suggested specific rates of royalty on coal equivalent to rate of 30% of the price of coal. They also suggested levy of royalty on tonnage basis. The views of the various State Governments had been considered by the Study Group before making its recommendations.